

May 29, 2012 Bulletin 120 Update

The May 29, 2012, Bulletin 120 (B120) Update has been completed and it is posted at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir?s=b120up> . The forecast includes observed conditions through the morning of May 29, 2012.

Next Update:

The next forecast will be the Bulletin 120 Update for conditions on June 5, 2012. It will be available on June 7, 2012. ***This will be the last forecast of the Water Year.***

Forecast Summary:

Considering the rivers forecasted in the B120 update, the projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 42 percent of average for the Kern River to 89 percent of average for the Inflow into Shasta Lake.

Runoff:

May unimpaired flows range between 47 (Kern River) and 75 (Inflow to Lake Shasta) percent of average. The Yuba River and rivers to the north are flowing at rates between 70 and 75 percent of normal. The rivers south of the Yuba are flowing at rates between 47 and 65 percent of normal for May.

Precipitation:

The Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index gained 0.3 inches this week. May's total-to-date precipitation accumulation is 0.5 inches which is only 24 percent of the average monthly total. The seasonal total through May 30 is 40.2 inches which is 85 percent of average-to-date and 80 percent of an average water year. The San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index gained 0.2 inches this last week. The seasonal total through May 30 is 24.2 inches which is 62 percent of average-to-date and 59 percent of an average water year. These gains in precipitation do not appear to have produced any excess runoff for any of the forecasted rivers.

Snowpack:

Regionally, the snow sensor data is indicating only 1 inch of snow water equivalent remains in the Northern Sierra as of May 31. Statewide the snow water equivalent is zero. Only 7 of the 95 currently functioning snow pillows register any snow at all.

Weather and Climate Outlook:

The CNRFC 6-day QPF and Freezing Level Forecast, issued this morning, suggests trace amounts of precipitation for the Northern Sierra Sunday through Monday. Up to 0.5 inches is possible for the West Branch of the Feather River for this period. Otherwise, dry and warm conditions will persist as summer approaches. Freezing elevations are expected to range between 16,000 and 11,000 feet for the Southern Sierra and between 15,000 and 8,000 feet for the Northern Sierra. These elevations are expected to fall to their lowest levels on Monday. The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) one-month (June) outlook indicates increased chances of above normal precipitation for the northeastern corner of the state and equal chances above or below normal precipitation elsewhere. This forecast was updated May 31. The three-month (June – August) outlooks have not been updated since last issued on May 17.

*If you have any questions regarding this forecast, please contact a member of the Snow Surveys staff.
We are happy to help.*

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Important Links:

Bulletin 120 Email Subscription Information

To subscribe and un-subscribe to the B120 notification email
<http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/b120>.

Water Supply Index (WSI) Email Subscription Information

To subscribe and un-subscribe to the WSI notification email
<http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/WSI>

Full Natural Flow Data:

Daily FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNF

Monthly FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNFSUM

Seasonal FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FLOWOUT

Precipitation Data:

Latest Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=8SI&d=today>

Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Tabulation

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/8-Stations_Tab.pdf

Latest San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=5SI&d=today>

San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Tabulation

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/5-Stations_Tab.pdf

WY Precipitation Summary

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/precip/PRECIPSUM>

Snow Data:

Latest Snow Sensor Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/PAGE6>

Latest Statewide Summary of Snow Water Equivalents

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>

Monthly Snow Course Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/COURSES>

Extended Regional Forecasts:

California Nevada River Forecast Center 6 Day QPF and Snow Level Forecast

<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/awipsProducts/RNOHD6RSA.php>

Climate Prediction Center One-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

Climate Prediction Center Three-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/>

Drought Information:

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html